We claim:

1. A computer-implemented method for enforcing policy over a computer network, the method comprising:

defining a template;

assigning a policy to the computer network;

monitoring a content stream on the computer network; and

enforcing the policy when the content stream is within a threshold distance of the template.

2. A method according to claim 1, wherein assigning a policy includes assigning a policy to limit bandwidth on the computer network for content in the content stream within the threshold distance of the template.

3. A method according to claim 1, wherein assigning a policy includes assigning a policy to limit access to a document on the computer network within the threshold distance of the template.

4. A method according to claim 1, wherein monitoring a content stream includes monitoring metadata of the content stream.

5. A method according to claim 1, wherein monitoring a content stream includes:

monitoring a portion of the content stream on the computer network; and

extrapolating how close the entire content stream is to the template from the portion of the content stream.

6. A method according to claim 1, wherein monitoring a content stream includes constructing an impact summary for the content stream.

7. A computer-readable medium containing a program operable on a computer to enforce policy over a computer network, the program comprising:

definition software to define a template;

assignment software to assign a policy to the computer network;

monitoring software to monitor a content stream on the computer network; and

enforcement software to enforce the policy when the content stream is within a threshold distance of the template.

8. A program according to claim 7, wherein the assignment software includes assignment software to assign a policy to limit bandwidth on the computer network for content in the content stream within the threshold distance of the template.

9. A program according to claim 7, wherein the assignment software includes assignment software to assign a policy to limit access to a document on the computer network within the threshold distance of the template.

10. A program according to claim 7, wherein the monitoring software includes monitoring software to monitor metadata of the content stream.

11. A program according to claim 7, wherein the monitoring software includes:

monitoring software to monitor a portion of the content stream on the computer network; and

extrapolation software to extrapolate how close the entire content stream is to the template from the portion of the content stream.

12. A program according to claim 7, wherein the monitoring software includes construction software to construct an impact summary for the content stream.

13. An apparatus for enforcing policy over a computer network, the apparatus comprising:

a computer;

a template stored in the computer;

a policy associated with the template;

a monitor installed in the computer adapted to monitor a content stream in the computer network; and

a policy enforcer adapted to enforce the policy when the monitor determines the content stream to be within a threshold distance of the template.

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14. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the monitor is adapted to monitor metadata about the content stream.

15. An apparatus according to claim 14, wherein the metadata about the content stream includes a percentage of the network dedicated to the content stream.

16. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the monitor is adapted to monitor only a portion of the content stream on the computer network and extrapolate how close the entire content stream is to the template from the portion of the content stream.

17. An apparatus according to claim 13, wherein the monitor includes means for capturing an impact summary for the content stream.

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